necessary result of covering the vegetable matter with a fluid heavier than air, and of greater power of transporting sediment. The appearance of the fossils previously noticed also seems to prove the aqueous nature of the origin of cannel. Pieces of cannel from England correspond with those in which these fossils are found. Shells, too are not unfrequently found in the middle of a stratum of cannel. Among the vegetable remains found in this coal by Mr. Newbery are *Stigmariæ* roots and rootlets of trees which grow in coal-producing marshes, roots so characteristic of the under class of the coal seams, and others. Strata of ordinary bituminous coal usually consist of layers of greater or less thickness of brilliant bitumen, having a conchoidal fracture, alternating thin layers of what is generally cannel, sometimes containing so much earthy matter as to become bituminous shale; at times these layers of cannel are of considerable thickness, and form an important part of the stratum. This arrangement is attributed to the variable quantity of water covering the coal marshes—the cannel-like layers being deposited during the prevalence of higher water, when the fishy remains could naturally have become a portion of the stratum.

Mr. T. S. Hunt read a paper upon some Euphotides and other felspathic rocks. The name of Euphotide was applied to certain rock masses of the Alps and of Corsica which were composed of an aggregate of a feldspathic mineral, more or less compact, to which the name of Saussarite was given, and some variety of augite or hornblende, whose different nature has caused the rock to be designated as hypersthenite, gabbro, granitone and Euphotide by different authors. The result of the author's studies of the so-called Labradorite rocks of the Laurentian System show that these altered sedimentary deposits consist essentially of lime-felspars of the triclinic system holding small and variable amounts of hypersthene or of pyroxene. The feldspars vary in composition, yielding sometimes the formula of adhesive, and others that of Labradorite. Sometimes they are coarsely crystalline, in other cases fine-grained and almost impalpable, resembling saussurite, and constituting with their intermingled pyroxene veritable Euphotides, which pass by imperceptible degrees, into the coarse-grained Labradorite rocks with which they are chemically and mineralogically identical. In support of these conclusions a series of specimens and a number of analysis were exhibited. The altered lower silurian strata of the Green Mountains present, in close association with the serpentines, a series of fine grained feldspathine rocks, sometimes crystalline, at other times almost impalpable, which are founded on careful examination to consist essentially of a triclinic feldspar having in the case of the specimens exhibited the composition of *aloite*, associated with an anhydrous silicate of lime, magnesia, and oxide of iron, having all the characters of hornblende. These rocks have a density of about 2.75, and form large interstratified masses in the vicinity of the serpentine; they are, according to the author, veritable Euphatides. Other feldspathic rocks in the same series have the character of petrosilex, and appear to be referable to the gurite of d'Halley. The specimens exhibited were of a tough, cherty, subtranslucent, greenish-white rock, having a density of about 2.64. The results of its analysis showed that it is to be regarded as probably an intimate mixture of quartz with a feldspar having the formula of albite. The sedimentary origin of these deposits is undoubted, and the consideration of their metamorphism presents many points of great interest.

Another paper by Mr. Hunt was upon the Serpentines, and some of their associated rocks. In this paper was considered the nature of the Serpentines of the Green Mountains in Canada. The researches of Sir Wm. Logan have fully established the stratigraphical position of the Serpentine as belonging to that portion of the Hudson River group which contain the sparry limestones of Eaton. The Serpentines are sometimes homogeneous, and are hydrated silicates of magnesia and protoxide of iron, without any admixture of carbonates, but frequently they assume the form of conglomerates, in which rounded or angular masses of Serpentine are imbedded in a paste, which is a carbonate of lime, magnesia and iron, constituting a ferruginous dolomite, at other times a nearly pure carbonate of lime. Diallage is often intermingled with the serpentine, or constitutes a rock by itself. The same series of rocks presents great beds of silicious dolomite containing much carbonate of iron; at other times, the lime is wanting; and we have magnesite rock, which is sometimes mingled with a large amount of nearly pure silicious matter to which the carbonate series is a cement. At other times the silicious mixture is a mixture of talc with a silicate resembling a feldspar in composition. Small portions of oxide of chrome and of nickel are always found in these magnesites, and these two metals are also frequently found associated with the serpentines not only of Canada, but of other regions. Associated with the serpentines, and sometimes intermingled, is a white massive rock, having a density of about 3.50, and being a silicate of alumina and lime, having the composition of a lime garnet; other specimens, having a density of 3.30 to 3.40, appear to be ultimate mixtures of garnet with a white pyroxene. The aluminous silicate in some of these rocks may possibly be related to idocrase or epidote. This remarkable variety of rock is evidently derived from the alteration of an argillaceous limestone, which has but its carbonic acid, by a process precisely similar to that by which serpentines, talcs and chlorites may be formed from silicious and argillaceous magnesites, while the similar dolomites give rise to diallages, and asbestus, and hornblende rocks. As a general fact it may be said that the original sediments contain all the ingredients necessary to yield the different species which are brought out by subsequent metamorphism—a proposition of the highest importance for the correct understanding of the theory of the metamorphic rocks.

In the debate which followed this paper, remarks confirmatory of the position of Mr. Hunt were made by Prof. Hitchcock, Mr. J. D. Whitney, Sir William Logan, and Prof. Emmons.

MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS.

After the reading of the minutes, Prof. Alexander was called to the chair and Prof. W. B. Rogers read his paper upon Ozone Observations. Regretting how little he had to offer that was conclusive, he said his principal hope, in offering the paper, had been to elicit remarks from Dr. Smallwood, who had been one of the most indefatigable and successful observers on this Continent. It was known to the Section that Schonbein had many years ago discovered an agent of great energy in the atmosphere, which he called, from its disagreeable smell, ozone, material and ponderable. It has been considered as a peroxide of hydrogen, and also as an allotropic form of oxygen. But what is an allotropic form? Is it not physically and metaphysically a new substance? How can we define matter, or an elementary substance? Ozone had been interesting in a peculiar degree, from its being an ingredient in the atmosphere affecting us at every breath. Prof. R. had been making observations by Schonbein's test papers, called ozonometers. Some months' observation at Boston indicated that westerly winds contained most ozone; but in subsequent observations on an inland hill he found that winds in all directions gave similar amounts of ozone, while calms, from bringing less air on the paper, gave small amounts. He intended to make an instrument to measure the amounts of air passing over the test paper, and make further observations.

Several questions were put to Prof Rogers, which elicited the fact that he could find no effect of light and heat. He thought that in cities ozone was neutralized by organic matters in the air.

Prof. Horsford thought there were at least two atmospheric agents, both called ozone. He had made and used for ozone observations an instrument to measure the amounts of air passing over the test papers, and reported to the Association seven years ago. Dr. Reed of London had obtained endless indications of ozone in that city. He was of opinion that there may be many agents in the atmosphere that may affect ozonic observations, or even give indications of ozone.

A member from Portsmouth, Virginia, gave a brief account of his observations last Summer and the present, on ozone in that neighborhood. The ozone last Summer was deficient, and this Summer has been abundant, with abundant thunder, and the character of disease there is entirely different this year from the febrile type of the last year.

Dr. B. A. Gould, jr., then gave an account of some of the instruments which have been ordered, and partly received, for the Dudley Observatory at Albany. The meridian circle and transit instrument have been ordered from Messrs. Pistor & Martin's, in Berlin, Prussia, the makers of the beautiful instrument ordered by Chancellor Tappan, recently erected at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and placed under the care of Dr. Brunnow. The instruments are to be somewhat of an eclectic construction. There are two types of astronomical instruments—the English and the German. The English are massive, stable, built with the hope of preventing errors in the position of the main parts; while the German are light, airy, artistic, built for ease of handling, and for accurate measurement of the minuter movements. The one is the instrument of an engineer, the other that of an artist. Dr. Gould proceeded to describe the modifications which he had with difficulty induced the German builders to introduce into these instruments. The telescope of the meridian circle was to be of 7½ inches aperture and 10 feet focal. The glasses are from the Messrs. Chance of Birmingham, and Dr Gould had wished to have them ground and figured by the excellent artists of our own country who have so well proved their ability to give unsurpassed accuracy to large object glasses. But his German friends proved sensitive and insisted upon either doing the whole work or none, and he therefore had allowed them to figure the glasses with the proviso that they should be carefully examined and compared with the best American, and the result, whatever it was, should be made public. The eye-pieces are to have both a vertical and horizontal motion, and the diaphragm to be provided with both a vertical and horizontal micrometer. The chronograph was to be used, but in the case of the polar stars the slow motion requires the adoption of a system of micrometric measurement recently introduced into the Imperial Observatory in Paris, by Leverier. It had been decided to use Challis's arrangement of collimators, instead of the convertibility of the object and eye-piece, and of the telescope, for the purpose of testing the figure of the tube. Dr. Gould would not take up the time of the Section in discussing this matter at length, but there was one opinion of his which whe would advance, namely that he did not conceive the flexure of the telescope to be a minimum in zenith observations, nor a maximum at the horizon. The circles are divided to two minutes, and are read by microscopes to the tenths of a second. The illumination of the field of the Ann Arbor instrument was regulated by a set of plates somewhat like those which on a large scale regulated the swell of an organ. A method of observing bright stars has been introduced in the new circle by which both the threads and the field may be illuminated but with complementary colors. Dr. Gould described the means which had been arranged for determining every instrumental error by two entirely independent methods. He closed by saying that, in commemoration of one who had shown himself to be a public spirited man, a benefactor to all good institutions, a man in whom there was no guile, Scientific council had obtained permission from the Trustees to name this instrument the Olcott Meridian Circle.

Prof. Alexander, calling Professor Coffin to the Chair, read a paper on some of the special arrangements which seem to confirm the nebular hypothesis. He observed that this hypothesis had long borne the reproach of atheism, but bore it unjustly. It is not necessary in this hypothesis to substitute blind force for intelligent arrangement. Any theory must fail which would substitute anything for God's wisdom and power. Go back with this theory to a period so remote that even geology never dreamed of it, and ask how did it happen that a gaseous ring rolled itself up into a world so exactly adapted in the length of its years, and its day, its seasons and its physical constitution to the abode of intelligent races? How did it happen, he asked it reverently, but because God reigns from everlasting to everlasting, and because God is true? Laplace's hypothesis is no more atheistic than the law of gravity. It has been, it is true, enormously abused and made use of for atheistic purposes; but we have yet to learn that what has been abused is thereby made untrue—and we shall be slow to take that lesson on the bare authority of those who, upon their own showing, are but the descendants of monkeys improved. But, it is said, the foundation of Laplace's theory has been knocked away from under it; that the nebulas seen by Herschel, by which the hypothesis was suggested, are all resolved by Lord Ross's telescope. But this is not the fact. But suppose it were, does it follow that when the thing which suggests a theory fails the theory falls with it? Columbus started for the Western World in confident expectation of reaching the Indies; did he, because he did not find the Indies, find nothing? If we reason as those do who think the resolution of nebulæ disproves the nebular hypothesis, we must say that this continent does not exist. But we need care nothing for nebulæ so long as comets and the zodiacal light, and the phenomena seen at the eclipses of the sun, prove to us that there is yet nebular matter about our solar system. We do not serve the cause of truth by condemning so beautiful a theory unheard, and giving it the name of atheistic. Prof. Alexander thought that Laplace himself died believing in a personal Deity. He then proceeded to a discussion of the relative densities and distances of the planets, and from these and other phenomena drew, by mathematical reasoning, confirmations of the hypothesis of Laplace.

Prof. Peirce remarked that this was one of the most important subjects in Astronomy. He was aware of the value of many of the investigations of Mr. Alexander, and thought it might be well to discuss them more at length at the meeting to-morrow morning, when it was probable that the Section would be subdivided and we should have a sub-section specially devoted to Mathematics and Astronomy.

Prof. Bache then communicated some remarks on the secular variation in the magnet on the Atlantic and Gulf coast of the United States, from two papers of his assistant, Mr. Charles A. Schott. His recent observations seem to show a slight diminution in the rate of increase of westerly declination, leading to the supposition that the inflexure in the curve of secular variation corresponds to about 1850. The minimum was about 1860. The present rate of increase of westerly declination along the Atlantic coast is about five space minutes per annum. Mr. Schott's results in regard to the dip are also valuable. Prof. Bache remarked that this subject was not only of scientific but of great practical value, as there were places where the navigator would be obliged to rely more upon the dip than upon the declination of the needle.

Prof. Henry of the Smithsonian Institution, read a paper upon a large barometer in the hall of the institute. Attempts have several times been made to form barometers of water instead of mercury. One was by Prof. Daniell, in the hall of the Royal Society, in which a glass tube was employed, filled with boiled water while in a boiling state—the lower surface of the water was covered with castor oil to prevent contact with the air, but this precaution was found not to be sufficient. Air was absorbed by the oil, and the nitrogen of this air absorbed by the water. Another attempt was made to exclude the air by a thin film of gutta percha left after the evaporation of naphtha. But a valid objection to water arises from the vapor which will fill the top of the tube. Prof. Henry had decided to use sulphuric acid, which does not give off any appreciable vapor, nor absorb any air. The objections to its use are the liability to accident, and its affinity for water. But care can guard against accident, and the moisture can be absorbed from the air which touches it by a drying tube apparatus containing chloride of calcium. The construction was intrusted to Mr. James Green of New-York. The tube is two hundred and forty inches long and three-fourths of an inch in diameter, inclosed in a brass case two and a-half inches in diameter. The mechanical details of the instrument we need not repeat. The whole of the apparatus is inclosed in a glazed case one foot square.

Prof. Chauvenet read a paper on a method of determining the latitude of a place from the observed times when two known stars, properly situated, successively arrive at the same altitude. Prof. Bartlett remarked upon this paper that there was a similarity between this method and that of Capt John Mills Brown. Prof. Coffin corrected Prof. Bartlett by reminding him that in Brown's method the two stars were to come to the same altitude at the same moment of time.

ZOOLOGY, BOTANY AND ETHNOLOGY.

Prof. Haldeman in the Chair.

Dr. A. C. Hamlin of Maine exhibited casts of supposed Runic inscriptions found in the Island of Monhegan. He gave some account of runes, simple, he said, at first, but gradually becoming so composite that, in later ages, it was difficult even for the learned to read them. These appear upon a stratum which seems to have been fissured at first by Nature. He thought that the rock was syenitic gneiss; a spring of clear water bubbles up from below; the island is about fifteen miles from the main land. A few years ago a similar inscription was found on the coast opposite. It was destroyed by blasting. Mr. Hamlin copied various authentic runes upon the blackboard.

Prof. Wilson gave an account of various Runic inscriptions and the difficulty of reading. He noticed a Scotch inscription, which was first read by a Dane and found to be Runic, containing new historical facts, Kemble, the Anglo Saxon scholar, soon read it, and he found that it was an Anglo-Saxon hymn on the Crucifixion of our Savior. His reading was subsequently confirmed by the finding of the identical Anglo-Saxon hymn. He spoke against sending original inscriptions abroad to be read.

Prof. Agassiz applied this to Paleontology. He said that much had been lost to the United States by sending isolated specimens to various places in Europe.

Dr. Hamlin exhibited a cast of the inscription on Dighton Rock. He thought that was Algonquin. The Algonquin race replaced the Esquimaux some six centuries ago, and that was commemorative of a victory gained over them.

Pres. Anderson noticed the humbug of the old windmill at Newport, and said we should learn a lesson of caution from that.

Mr. Thomas Gladstone of England urged the importance of ascertaining that this was authentic, that it was not the work of some idle people.

Prof. Agassiz gave his second lecture on Animal Development. We will give it to morrow.

Prof. Wilson said that he had opened many ancient graves for the purpose of ascertaining some data with regard to an earlier period of history than we had any record of. Bronze and copper relics he had found at first in a very rude state, then rising to higher use, and at last iron relics. The chronology of these relics was made out after their classification. Three epochs were now recognized—the Stone, the Bronze and the Iron ages—the stone age indicating a period when the north of Europe was occupied by a rude people entirely ignorant of metallurgic art. This was followed by an age, when copper mixed with tin was molded and ornamented with considerable skill. The age of Iron indicated much progress. Copper was found in a malleable state. The savage would consider it as a malleable stone, and only after long ages would be learn to melt and mold it. But the working of iron required much skill. The peculiar characteristic of the skulls of the Bronze period was that their heads was as wide from ear to ear as from front to rear. Their hands and feet were singularly small—presenting a correspondence with the bronze working inhabitants of one Continent as also did the singular form of their skulls. From his researches in Ireland and Scotland he thought he had found indications of the race of the Celtic period a race characterized by their lack of cerebral development and by skulls so much like an overturned boat, that he had termed them the boat headed race. They had a largely developed cerebellum, narrow and moderately long cerebrums, and very small skulls altogether. The bronze race was quite certain; there could be no doubt of that. There was no new thing in finding races with different skulls. The African and Caucasian skull were quite as different. The philologist found similar relics of language in Europe. In the Stone period the teeth were found perfect but entirely unworn, indicating subsistence on flesh. The teeth of the broad headed bronze race were always worn down as though they lived on grain. The teeth of a race in the north-west of America, where their food was mixed with sand blown from sand dunes, were always worn down to the gums. He thought that investigations in the physical line of investigation were sometimes more reliable than even the results of philological investigation.

Prof. Agassiz said that the material distinctions of the races of men were greater than those between different races of many of the lower animals. He was prepared to shew that the differences which existed between the present races were greater than the differences between species of the same family. The family of monkeys he would take as the best example, because they were nearest men. They were our cousins, and the affinity so close that it could not be denied. They all had that same unity of capabilities as in man. He insisted on the unity of the human family; he recognized it in the physical, intellectual and moral characteristics of man; they constituted an indivisible unity. But the same thing was to be seen in monkeys. He would take only the Orang and the Chimpanzee, the highest types of the African and the Asiatic monkeys. Zoologists had classified the yellow Asiatic monkey in one genus, and the black African in another. But in both there was the same inclination of the teeth, while in the races of men some had teeth meeting square, and others had them meeting angularly. The amount of difference between the races of men was of the same kind and degree as that among not only between different species, but different genera of monkeys. The word species, it was true, was rather indefinite. One family of monkey was divided into fifteen species by some, and into two only by others. There was here a great field for investigation. How the races of men have differed, how long they have differed, and, finally, if we could reach it, how have they originated—this was the question. He confessed that the probability of the independent origin of the races seemed to him at present the greater. The facts which he had accumulated did not amount to a solution, but they were strong expectation.

Prof. Dawson believed, on grounds of faith, that all men were made of one blood, and he trusted that they expected to meet the brotherhood of men hereafter. However, we were authorized to examine the question carefully. He supposed that Prof. Agassiz acknowledged the absolute existence of an unmistakeable distinction of species, and he supposed that the Professor imagined that all members of a single species had but a single pair of parents, or a single parent—that they were all derived from the same parent source.

Prof. Agassiz said that he thought a species was descended from a great number of individuals.

Prof. Dawson dwelt upon the variability of species, and the probability of geological changes which might diffuse the individuals of a species. He could not recognize the fairness of the monkey analogy. The monkey had a comparatively limited habitat, and the monkey was a very invariable species while man was very variable. We had very different horses here in America. The Sable Island horse was very markedly different from the mustang. It would not be very difficult, denying the historical testimony of the introduction, to show that the Sable Island horse and the mustang were not only natives but of different species [Applause].

Prof. Agassiz said that the idea of the unity of the race was a traditional view, and when brought into the field of scientific investigation, should not be treated with this method of argumentation. By this method of arguing, for the sake of proving or disproving anything, we might prove that Napoleon was a myth. Here, in this matter, we wanted to know how men stood with reference to one another and how with reference to the animal kingdom. Reproduction was the acknowledged test of specific identity. The progeny of the horse and ass was a new animal—a mule—and it seemed to him that the offspring of members of two different nations, especially if they were of different races, produced the same half-bred progeny. The child of the negro and the white man was a mulatto, partaking of the characteristics of both parents, and the mule partook of the character of the horse and the ass. This had been, early in his investigations, a hint to look at these differences in men similar to those existing between different species of animals. If we did not find something to explain the half-breed character, unless we could introduce new tests into science, different from those to which we had been accustomed, the races appeared to him to have the characters of different species. He was perfectly aware of the heap of blunders which zoologists had committed, and he thought the exceptional experiments which had been made in this investigation ought to be thrown out of consideration.

Prof. Wilson hoped that ethnologists might be spared the charge of skepticism, and that their labors might not be criticised too closely. He defended the devoutness of Prof. Agassiz, and was loudly cheered.

President Anderson spoke of the importance of this sort of investigation, and the necessity of a convention of all the philologists, ethnologists and antiquarians of the country. He offered a resolution, which was referred to the Standing Committee, that means may be taken to secure the attendance of such gentlemen generally at the next meeting.

The Section then adjourned.

LATER FROM FLORIDA.

We have dates from Florida to Aug. 8. By a letter from Fort Myers, of that date, we learn that the affair at Fort Mackenzie (reported some days since in The Tribune) had created considerable excitement in the country, as being indicative of a renewed desire on the part of the Seminoles to continue their hostile attitude, and it is feared that another campaign similar to last year's will be the necessary result. Capt. H. C. Pratt, 2d artillery, had been appointed to examine the country round Punta Rassa, and he had with a party thoroughly scouted everywhere, but without obtaining any further information except that the savages had landed in canoes before their attack. The man who was wounded was better, and will probably recover.

The recent floods still derange the mails very much, so that no letters can be expected with any regularity for some months to come.

LATER FROM TEXAS.

MORE OF THE WRECK OF THE NAUTILUS.

From the New Orleans Picayune, 19th.

Capt. J. Y. Lawless, of the steamship Mexico, which arrived here from Galveston last evening, favors us with the following report:

"On Sunday, August 10th, at 8 a. m., were ready to go to sea, but found it impossible to get away from the wharf, as the wind was blowing a gale. On Monday, the 11th, at 7 a. m., proceeded to the Belize, where we arrived at 3 p. m. same day. Came to an anchor, and staid there until half past 5 a. m. Tuesday, so as to have daylight to look for missing vessels. About 10 o'clock saw water casks, doors, chairs, deck timbers, &c., but no signs of any hulls. Shaped our course all the trip down to see wrecks, if any, along the land. At 7 o'clock on Monday night saw a schooner on Timbalier, and a large vessel at Ship Island; but it was blowing heavy, and dark, and the vessels appeared to be in four or five feet water. Did not go to them. Weather a good deal better on Wednesday, and we arrived at Galveston at 5 p. m. that day.

"Nothing of interest occurred until Monday, 18th inst., when, about 9 a. m., east of Timbalier, saw many pieces of wreck, white grained doors, deck planks, &c., from Timbalier to Southwest Pass.

"Picked up a wheelbarrow (such as the steamers use in coaling), marked 'W. Lee,' the person's name who had charge of the coal wheelers on our ships some time ago and some of whose barrows the Nautilus had used in wheeling coal from the vessel to the warehouse at Brazos Santiago.

"I saw no large pieces of wreck, or hulls, spars &c. All the pieces seemed to be from a steamship cabin, but saw no rosewood or maple doors, such as the Nautilus had—only polished white and grained work.

"At 12 M. on the 18th, arrived at South-west Pass; took a pilot and came in the river. Heard from them that the Perseverance had left this morning for Galveston. Respectfully,

"J. Y. Lawless, Master steamship Mexico."

The Galveston News has the following paragraphs:

"Sufficient returns have come to hand to show that the Democratic nominees for Controller, Treasurer, and Attorney-General, on the State ticket, have been elected by large majorities. Chief Justice Hemphill had no opposition, and Judges Wheeler and Lipscomb, for Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, are far ahead of Gen. Jennings. The vote proves what we heretofore stated as our belief, viz. that the people generally had full confidence in the Judges of the Supreme Bench, and did not desire a change.

"*The Nueces Valley* states that the Hon. H. P. Bee, Speaker of the House of Representatives, has been spoken off by his friends as a candidate for Congress at the next election."

Burglary.—The cloth store of Joseph L. Flood, No. [illegible] Chambers street, was entered by burglars on Monday night and robbed of [illegible] worth of goods and [illegible]. No arrest.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

COMMISSIONERS OF HEALTH.

The Commissioners of Health met as usual yesterday afternoon, and acted upon the following cases reported by the Health Officer:

Brig Suwanee arrived from Ponce, Porto Rico, on 23d inst., with a cargo of sugar and molasses; all hands on board reported well, on arrival and during passage. Allowed to lighter her cargo and send it to the city after the expiration of five days from date of arrival.

Brig Erie arrived from St. Jago de Cuba on the 23d inst. with a cargo of sugar. One man died on the passage of consumption, remainder of the crew reported in good health. She was ordered to be thoroughly cleansed and fumigated, and cargo lightered and sent to the city after a detention of fifteen days from date of arrival.

Bark Eastern Belle, from Ponce, Porto Rico, on the 24th inst., with a cargo of molasses and sugar; all hands reported well on arrival and during passage. Ordered to remain at quarantine for a period of five days for ventilation; to be then allowed to lighter her cargo and send it to the city.

Schooner Albert Mason, from Charleston, S. C., arrived on the 24th inst. with a cargo of wheat; port of departure unhealthy, but all hands on board are well and have been. The vessel has been thoroughly cleansed and purified, and on the recommendation of the Health Officer was allowed to proceed to the city in ten days, providing the crew remain well.

Brig Xenophon from Sagua la Grande on 25th inst., with cargo of sugar and molasses. Health Officer is of the opinoin that the cargo may safely be lightered and sent to the city, especially as all hands are well.

Brig H. Mathews, from Sagua la Grand, arrived on 25th inst., with cargo of sugar and molasses; all well. Cargo allowed to be lightered to the city immediately.

Brig R. Dyer, from Gonaives, arrived on 25th inst. Logwood. Lost one man on passage of yellow fever. Cargo to be lightered. Vessel to remain at Quarantine.

Schooner George Mang'am from Cumberland Harbor, came into port on the 28th July with a cargo of sugar, and no sickness on board. Allowed to proceed.

Brig Active from St. Jago de Cuba, arrived on August 3, at Quarantine, laden with sugar; all hands on board well. Allowed to proceed to the city.

Brig Alma, arrived in Quarantine August 10, from Cape Haytien, St. Domingo, having on board only logwood; all hands well. Allowed to proceed to the city.

Bark John Griffin, arrived in port from Cienfuegos July 20, with sugar. The captain and one man died of yellow fever during the passage, and the mate was sick at port of departure. The cargo of said vessel has been discharged for a period of ten days, and the vessel has been fumigated and otherwise cleansed. No stevedore or lighterman has sickened on board of said vessel since she has been in port. The vessel has been in Quarantine the period prescribed by law. Allowed to proceed in ten days.

Brig William F. came into Quarantine August 12, from Guayamas, Porto Rico, with sugar and molasses, and all on board well. Allowed to proceed to the city.

Bark Wildfire, arrived on the 18th inst. from Vera Cruz, which port is an open roadstead, and not more unhealthy at this season than usual. The owners desire a stream permit to come within three hundred yards of the city to discharge the cargo of hides on lighters. Case referred to the consideration of the Health Officer.

Schooner Tenloo, from Gonaives, with cargo of logwood. Permission was given to the vessel to come to Pier No. 38 East River, to discharge cargo on another vessel to go to Boston.

Schooner Metis, from Port au-Platte, arrived on the 21st inst. Cargo of mahogany and hides. She was permitted to come within 300 yards of the city, and discharge cargo on lighters, but hides not to be landed in the City or Brooklyn.

Ship Vespasian, from Bonaires, which was ordered to remain five days at Quarantine, and then discharge cargo of salt in lighters to be brought to the city; allowed to proceed to the city with cargo after she has been fumigated, and has remained ten days at Quarantine.

Brig Maria Pascalina, from Port au-Prince, with logwood, was refused permission to go alongside of ship J. H. Elliott to discharge the remainder of her logwood.

Brig Nemphor, from Vera Cruz, arrived on the 18th inst., with a cargo of hides, wishes to come within 300 yards of the city to lighter her cargo, and send it immediately away. The case was referred to the Health Officer.

The bark N. P. Talmadge, for Havana, having lost her captain by yellow fever, was ordered to the S. W. Spit by the Deputy Health Officer, in the absence of Dr. Thompson, but the mate refused to obey the order. The Health Officer, on learning the facts, communicated with a licensed pilot of the port, and directed him to remove the vessel forthwith to the S. W. Spit, where she remains subject to a quarantine of thirty days, with permission to discharge the cargo at the expiration of fifteen days. The Board then adjourned.

BROOKLYN BOARD OF HEALTH.

August 26, present the Mayor presiding, and a quorum of members.

A number of nuisances were reported and ordered to be abated.

Health Warden Holbrook reported the slaughter-house of Messrs. Oswald in Court street as in good condition and no nuisance. Filed.

The Health Officer submitted the following:

August 26, 1856.

Gentlemen: No report of any infectious malignant or contagious disease has been made during the last 24 hours.

M. WENDELL.

Ald. Oakley reported several cases of small-pox in Carll street—two or three had died of the disease. The subject was laid over for the purpose of preparing a resolution.

The Captain of the Truxilla asked permission to land a cargo of hides. Having no permit from the Health Officer at Quarantine, refused.

The Mayor reported a number of dogs, kept by a man in Nassau street, near Bridge, as nuisances, as by their barking they prevented the neighbors from taking their rest. Referred to the Health Warden of the District for report.

The pork packing establishment corner of South First and Fifth streets was reported in good condition. Adjourned.

PRISON ASSOCIATION.

The Executive Committee of this Association held their regular monthly meeting yesterday at 4 o'clock p. m., in their office, No. 15 Centre street.

From the Treasurer's report it appeared $125 had been contributed to its funds during the present month.

From the diary of the Agent, we learn nearly 400 persons have been visited in our city prisons. From this number those were carefully selected who appeared the most inexperienced in crime, and about whom circumstances of extenuation seemed to exist; 117 complaints were minutely and impartially examined; many of these were discontinued and abandoned on their advice; 43 persons had been discharged from custody on their recommendation (the charges being frivolous, and often preferred under the influence of passion and prejudice)—not one of whom could be recognized as having been previously charged with crime: 23 discharged convicts from our State prisons, penitentiaries, and county jails, were temporarily assisted with small sums of money, while a much larger number of needy applicants were (from want of means) sent away empty. Eleven men and youths, with garments "tattered and torn," were supplied with such clothing as their scanty wardrobe would afford. Thirteen persons were provided with situations and employment, and most of them away in the country where the chances of their doing well are more hopeful than if they were in the city. Bibles, Testaments, and other good books were freely bestowed.

We make a few extracts from the diaries of the Agent:

No. 1, a woman, was charged with petty larceny. The testimony was considered to be conclusive against her. The Court was about to commit her to the Penitentiary, when the Agent intimated his belief that the complainant was mistaken, and that if the case was remanded until the next Court day it might assume a very different aspect; it was at present a very doubtful affair. The case was adjourned. On the following Court day the Association represented that the most diligent inquiries had been made into the history and character of the defendant. She had sustained a reputation above reproach. The facts of the case showed that the complainant had been in too great haste to fasten crime upon her; she was not guilty of the charge. She was immediately discharged and enabled to reach her family of five children.

No. 2 was confined in the Tombs on charge of abandonment. The wife had been advised to call at the office of the Association, to consult them. She said her husband is a laborer, earning from 10s to 11s per day; that he refused to give her more than 20s per week to keep house, an insufficient sum "to make ends meet." Her friends had often urged her to make a complaint before a magistrate against him, and compel him to make her a more liberal allowance. She had adopted their advice. The Agent expostulated with her, and tried to show her a more excellent way. She felt anxious that he should now be discharged. The Justice was waited on by the Agent, and the man was released. They met in the office of the Association, the wife pained and ashamed, the husband angry and unforgiving. The best advice was given them, which both coolly promised to adopt. She has since called to say he almost immediately cleared out to parts unknown.

No. 3 was charged with petit larceny. He admitted his guilt. Want of employment and the approaching sickness of his wife had driven him to commit this, the first dishonest act of his life. Agent represented all the extenuating features in the case, and the City Judge with his characteristic humanity suspended the sentence and discharged him. A situation was obtained for this young man, and he is now doing well.

No. 9. Three young women were charged with shop-lifting. The case was clearly proved against them. The Judge appealed to the Agent, saying, "I am willing to hear anything you have "to say in behalf of the defendants." Agent regretted he could say nothing in their behalf; they had each been previously convicted, and were old offenders. The Court then sentenced them each to six months in the Penitentiary.

These two or three selections are made with a view to show how and where the Association labors—not merely to shield and save those who for the first time do wrong (and repent), but also to see that justice is meted out to those who habitually depredate on the community.

No. 4 had been in the Penitentiary four months. He says he now sees clearly the cause of all his troubles—lager beer and its company; to avoid the one he will give up the other. He was supplied with coat and pants, and a few funds to enable him to reach the country.

No. 5 called at the office from Blackwell's Island, praying the Association to take him by the hand. He appeared to be sincere in his resolves to avoid every evil way in the future. Supplied him with suitable clothes, and obtained for him a place of work. He is doing well.

Numerous cases of this character are on record.

Donations and contributions are earnestly solicited on behalf of this very useful Institution, and will be gratefully acknowledged by Henry A. Oakley, esq., No. 60 Wall street. Clothing, shirts, shoes, caps, &c., are especially required for men this Association seek to reform. Office No. 15 Centre street, corner of Chambers, New York.

CITY ITEMS.

George Wm. Curtis is to address the Young Men's Rocky Mountain Club of the Ninth Ward to-morrow (Thursday) evening, at the Bleecker Building. A banner is to be presented to the Club by the ladies of the Ward. This Club is doing good service, and the young men are determined to roll up a large vote for Freedom and Fremont. The hall is large and fine, and Mr. Curtis's reputation as an author and speaker will of course insure a large attendance. Seats are reserved for ladies.

Hitching On.—Hurrying through the world we often meet with little hitches that retard our course, stop us in some favorite pursuit, or aid in turning us aside from the beaten path. We often, too, find ourselves hitched on to something that retards our course, and drags heavily at our skirts. In the "rural districts" how often, in the days when long surtouts were all the go, have we found a very long, unweildy scion of a crab tree, or last year's growth of a blackberry vine, following us "into meeting." We wonder now how the ladies's sweeping, long skirts get over such things in the country, when it is just as much as they can do to keep the sidewalks clean swept in the city. In that they do succeed some—streets are cleaner than they were in Dutch days, when women wore wooden shoes, red stockings, and petticoats uncommon short. And some they do not succeed, because they occasionally hitch on to more than a load. We witnessed one of these hitches yesterday. A couple that we set down as man and wife sure—because we never heard any other couple say "my dear" with such a cutting look and meaning emphasis—were coming down Broadway, bound for the Hudson River Railway Station, down Chambers street, with, the lady said, "not a minute to spare." The gent thought differently, and insisted on five minutes at least "by my watch." The lady "didn't care a fig for his watch—it was always wrong—he was always too slow." We can vouch for her that she is not. A woman with such a sharp tongue will cut her way through the world and be "in at the death." She is not slow. Her "better half" having at least five minutes, could spare one—"just a minute"—to speak to a friend on the corner. The lady would not wait. She went on, got near enough the station to have got on the first car, but waited for her husband, who after all was right; there were five minutes to spare—very long ones they were, too, to her. Presently the driver hitched on to car number one, and away went the horses on a quick trot down Hudson street and down the grade at no such snail's pace as her husband traveled. Didn't she wish the driver's whip was cracking around husbands' instead of horses' heels. "Hitch on" shouted the director, and "clear the track, and away went car number three. "I wish," hissed the words between compressed lips, "that "I was on that car, with a rope around somebody's neck." He would have got a hitch that would have hitched him on, so that he would have no chance to stop, "just a minute," to talk or think He would have had all he could do to trot after that woman. That woman was getting excited. No wonder. Her trunks and band boxes, and "every dress in the world," were on that train, marked, "Saratoga," where she intended to hitch on to the "last of the season," The nights were already getting cool, and company would soon be leaving. It was an exciting time, for the horses were hitched on to the last car, waiting for the last man who is always a little too late, and for the last word to be said to go a head. There is still time to save themselves by "jumping on," but then, "where is that abominable man?" He was just a minute too late, and just because he was hitched on—yes, hitched on to a woman His wife, "standing" as she declared, "upon nettles"—hope not barefooted—turned to see if she could see that abominable man. Yes, she could see him—did see him—and if he had been within reach would have hitched on to him, for she saw—"well if it warn't enough to drive one "distracted." No wonder, for she saw what had detained her husband. It was a woman—a young woman—a pretty woman—a woman with auburn curls—very pretty—and "such a love of a bonnet"—so that the injured wife thought so—and a large, heavy, white, crape shawl, with a long fringe. The man had watched his watch, and would have been "just in time" "to get on somehow," supposing, innocent man, that his wife would get her seat at any rate without waiting for him. If she had, she would have gone alone. He saw the cars go off one after another, but as there was still one left, and his friend had one more word, just a word to say, he held on to the last moment, and then started under high pressure, and would have got down to where his wife was standing on nettles, just in time to see that he could not get her aboard, if he did himself. But he was saved even that mortification by another. In passing the auburn curls and crape shawl, his buttons and her fringe came in contact, and no man was more instantly hitched on to a woman than he was, and the more they both tried to get unhitched, the more they were hitched. It was an entanglement that brought two blushing faces close together, and as both were well bred, polite apologies in soft words were interchanged. The gentleman begged her pardon—the lady begged his—the gentleman's fingers were all thumbs—the lady's fingers all in gloves. She had to stop to take them off. He tried to take off a button or two, perhaps three, so firmly was he hitched on. In the mean time the horses were hitched on to the last car, the last word was given, and away it went; and just then the wife turned around to see her husband, and did see him—saw him blush—saw the lady in auburn curls blush—didn't know for what—she only knew that he had hitched on to some woman in the street, and that she, the wife, was not on the way to Saratoga.

N. B.—There was a lecture—curtain lecture—delivered to a select private party that evening. Reporters not admitted.

Sudden Death.—We should think so. "Bridget Jones"—we copy from a City paper—"is dead." "She died suddenly." Did she? Well, we have known a great many other persons to die suddenly, after a very long illness. "She was an Irish woman"—and yet she died—very singular. "She died at her residence in Monroe street." How pleasant it is to die at home. Who would not be willing to die at one's own residence? "The Coroner was notified to hold an inquest upon the body." What for? Because she died at home, or because she died suddenly? Or because she didn't make a time of it when she died? Or because it was so singular for an Irish woman to die at all? Probably the latter, for the account says "the death is supposed to have been the result of disease." Upon reflection, this may have been the moving cause of calling the Coroner. It was considered so singular that any body should die in this city, at home, of disease, in a natural way, and not by violence, that the coroner was notified. People who dislike to have a Coroner's Jury sit upon their bodies, must be careful not to contract disease and die at home.

Gone at Last.—The entire furniture of the City Hotel, alias the Plymouth House, was yesterday and the day before sold at auction. This house was started several years ago with fair prospects, but it became in a short time after its opening the resort of fancy men, gamblers and blacklegs, and, as a matter of consequence, soon lost its respectability. It is stated that the proprietor failed for $25,000. Not long since an effort was made to restore the establishment to its once prosperous condition, and the name was changed to the Plymouth House. The saloons on the first and basement floors were removed and the lower portion of the building advertised to rent for stores. At the same time, however, gamblers were permitted to frequent the house and hang about the doorway, and to get rid of them was a matter of impossibility. The place has at last been broken up, but what will be done with the property is not yet known. It is more than likely, however, that the old structure will be demolished and two or three fine warehouses erected on the site.

Camp Meeting.—The annual camp meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church of this city and vicinity was commenced in Sniffin's Woods, about a mile west of Port Chester, on Sunday last. The number of tents pitched for the occasion has never before been known to be so large, and the attendance, although yet quite early in the week to show what it will be, has been very numerous. The trains of the New-Haven Railroad are almost hourly landing hundreds at the Rye and Port Chester stations, on their way to the camp ground, and will continue to bring visitors faster and faster until the last day of meeting; so that by the time the exercises have got under full headway, it will be well worth a trip to the spot to witness the scene, especially by night.

We understand that many have been disposed to find fault with the Committee of Arrangements for selecting for the camp ground, a spot so remote from steamboat communication with the city, on account of expense. Such persons should bear in mind that in every instance where these Camp Meetings have been held in localities affording communication with the city at very low rates of fare, large numbers of disorderly persons, and even the most abandoned characters have intruded, and conducted themselves in the most disgraceful manner, thereby intimidating the respectable and devout portion from further participation in the religious exercises. On the other hand, the proceedings of the meeting last year, held for the first time at this new camp ground, terminated satisfactorily to the parties interested. Under the circumstances, it must be conceded, that the Committee of Arrangements have acted judiciously in again selecting the vicinity of Port Chester the present year.

Frederics's New Photographic Establishment.—The new and extensive Photographic rooms of Charles D. Frederics, late of Gurney & Frederics, was opened on Monday evening. A large number of the friends and patrons of Mr. Frederics were present on the occasion, and participated in the house warming. The establishment is situated opposite the Metropolitan Hotel, and is one of the largest and best appointed in the world. Messrs. Tracy & De Bause, gentlemen well known as skillful in the Photographic art, are associated with Mr. F. in the conduct of the business.

We learn that several large pictures of Mr. Rossiter, the well-known historical painter, are missing. They were last heard from at Mobile in April last, where they were being exhibited by Mr. Charles H. Wilbur. Mr. Rossiter fears that Mr. Wilbur may have died and that the pictures may have got lost.

The Republican Association of the Eighteenth Ward, and the Eighteenth Ward Fremont Club, were consolidated on Monday evening, and the following officers chosen: President, Homer Franklin. Vice-Presidents, S. V. Bagley, Henry Brewster, Benjamin Warden and William D. Chase. Secretaries, Richard Wyckoop and William Boies. Treasurer, William K. Strong. The delegation to the Central Committee remain unchanged. The Executive Committee of the old Association, so far as it had been completed, was unanimously adopted by the new body. It was resolved to call the Society the "Eighteenth Ward Fremont Republican Association." The meeting adjourned till next Monday evening. The Rooms of the Association are at the north west corner of Twentieth street and Third avenue.

Incendiary Fire in Hudson Street—Arrest on Suspicion of Arson.—It will be recollected that on the 15th inst., between 12 and 5 o'clock, two very mysterious fires occurred in the dwelling-house of Mrs. Mary Thompson, No. 453 Hudson street. On the first alarm, no less than ten distinct and separate fires were discovered among the household furniture; the object of the incendiary being, no doubt, to destroy the furniture only, and not the building. All these fires were extinguished by the Police, with the aid of the neighbors. The Fire Marshal, assisted by Captains Ackerman and Turnbull, made a careful examination of the premises, and did not leave the house until about three o'clock. Shortly after 4 o'clock, a second fire broke out on the second floor, fire having, beyond a doubt, been a second time applied to the bedding and bedsteads. The result of the Fire Marshal's investigation being laid before Justice Davidson, a warrant was issued for the arrest of Mrs. Mary Thompson, on the charge of wilfully firing her household furniture, for the purpose of defrauding the Insurance Company. The accused was arrested by Captain Ackerman, and required to find bail in the sum of $500 to answer the charge.

The Dog Pound.—From the report of the Pound Keeper made to the Mayor yesterday morning, it appears that the whole number of dogs received at the Public Pound, corner of Thirty-first street and First avenue, since the opening, was 3,800. During the week ending August 23, 319 dogs were received and disposed of as follows:

	Received.	Drowned.	Red'med.	Remaining.
Monday	68	55	7	16
Tuesday	45	9	4	50
Wednesday	86	70	12	10
Thursday	51	45	5	10
Friday	64	66	7	16
Saturday	45	29	12	10

Sale of the Slaver Braman.—The sale of this vessel, which was ordered by the United States District Court to take place this day, has been postponed until Sept. 11, on the application of Mr. Benedict, counsel for the owner.

The Weather.—This morning, at 4 and 5 o'clock, the temperature was down to forty eight (48) degrees, which is the coldest morning for a period of sixty-eight consecutive years, with the exception of August, 1816, and August, 1817.

On the 31st of August, 1789, the temperature at 6 a. m. was fifty-one (51) degrees, which was one degree higher than at the same hour this morning.

In 1816, on the 23d of August, the temperature was fifty two (52) degrees, and on the 28th fifty (50) degrees at 7 a. m. which is one degree lower on 23d and three degrees lower on 28th, than this morning *at the same hour*.

On the 25th of August, 1817, the temperature at 7 a. m. was fifty (50) degrees, which is three degrees lower than this morning *at same hour*, and 30th of August 1829, fifty (50) at sunrise, which is the same as this morning at same hour.

Since the 20th inst., the date of my last published weather memoranda, the temperature at my place of observation has not risen above eighty-two (82) degrees.

A rain shower passed over yesterday at 3 p. m., the water which fell from it was of the temperature of sixty-four (64) degrees.

It is probable that the mountains south of north latitude 45 degrees have been snowed upon during the change of yesterday. E. Meriam.

Brooklyn Heights, August 26, 1856.

Accidents.—Peter Boyle, a laborer, employed at Pier No 14 North River, was seriously injured on Monday afternoon by a barrel of beer, which fell upon him. The police conveyed him to the New-York Hospital.

Martin Murphy, a hand on board the steamboat Delaware lying at Pier No. 14 North River, fell through the hatchway of the boat on Monday evening, and was badly hurt. He was taken to the New York Hospital.

Michael Flannegan, a boy fourteen years of age, was playing on Monday afternoon, in the cellar of a new building in Twenty fifth street, near Sixth avenue when one of the side walls of the cellar gave way and buried him under the rubbish. He was rescued by some laborers and after being attended at a house in the neighborhood by Dr. Ramsey, was removed to the residence of his parents, No. 302 East Thirtieth street. His injuries, though severe are not thought to be of a fatal character.

A Soldier Drowned.—The body of a United States soldier, supposed to be that of Edward M. [illegible]